

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION INSTITUTE

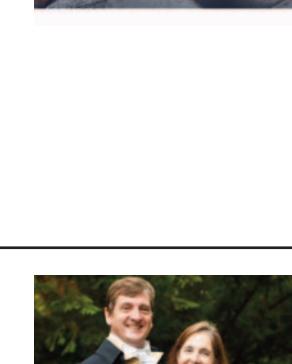
**News, Events, and Commentary
from the American Revolution Institute
of the Society of the Cincinnati**

today

June 1, 2020

A Museum that Never Closes

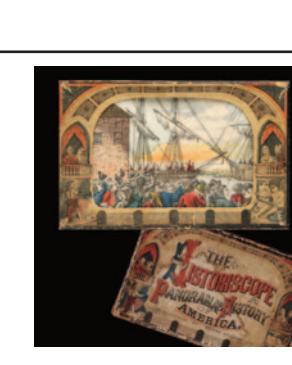
In the last few years, many of the world's great museums have put their collections online, sharing their treasures with the public in a way their founders never imagined. This week we joined them, and invite you to explore our brand new Museum Collections Database online. This didn't happen overnight. Our team has been working on building, cataloging, and photographing our collections for more than fifteen years. Collections Manager Sabine Fisher and Curator Emily Parsons have taken advantage of the opportunity presented by our shift to remote work to focus on making our museum collections available to everyone. Those collections include important portraits of Revolutionary War soldiers, the weapons they carried, and hundreds of objects made in the generations since to commemorate the legacy of American independence. They also include the world's best collection of Society of the Cincinnati Eagle insignias—from the first Eagles commissioned by Pierre L'Enfant in Paris to the most recent designs. You can now explore high-resolution images and descriptions of five hundred works of art and artifacts any time, from any computer or mobile device. More objects will be added to the database every week.



Explore the Database

The "Great Anniversary Festival" Must Go On!

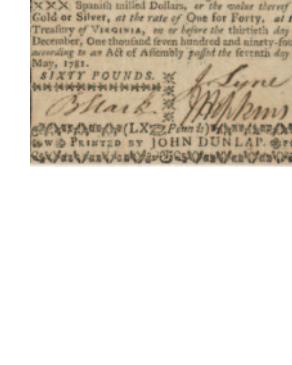
John Adams—the father of American independence if ever there was one—predicted that “the Second Day of July 1776, will be the most memorable Epocha, in the History of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival.” The second of July is, of course, the day the Continental Congress adopted Richard Henry Lee’s resolution “that these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States... and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved.” So Adams was off by a couple of days. Since its early days our republic has celebrated the *Fourth* of July—the day Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence—as our national birthday. But we traditionally get a jump on the holiday by honoring Adams and celebrating his “great anniversary Festival” on the *Second* of July with a concert of Revolutionary music by David and Ginger Hildebrand, co-founders of the Colonial Music Institute and two of the great performers of the music our founders would have known. Despite the shutdown, the show must go on! So we’re going online this year. You can tune in on your computer—no ticket needed!



Learn More About the Concert

Nineteenth-Century "Screen Time" in the Classroom

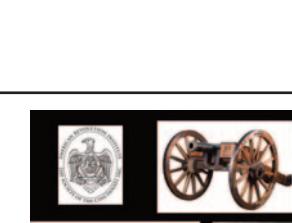
Schools may be finishing up for the year, but we’re gearing up for the 2020-2021 school year with more online lessons. Among the new ones posted online is one created by an American Revolution Institute Master Teacher. It features a nineteenth-century educational toy from our collections called the *Historiscope*. Set in a miniature cardboard theater, the *Historiscope* invited children to entertain and teach their friends and family by turning a crank to reveal a rolling series of lithographs depicting scenes from the American Revolution. Made by the famous (and very old) Milton Bradley Company, the toy included a script with the history behind each image for the narrator to follow, a poster to advertise live “performances,” and tickets for the audience. Moultrie Middle School (Mount Pleasant, S.C.) teacher Rikki Davenport’s lesson on the *Siege of Charleston* asks students to create their own *Historiscope* and record an iMovie of their performance as a culminating project to share research about South Carolina’s Revolutionary history. Other new content from our teachers includes lessons about the marquis de Lafayette’s 1824-1825 American tour and the modern cult of celebrity, the saga of Georgia Loyalist Elizabeth Johnston, and the inspiring but tragic account of Connecticut’s Capt. Jonathan Birge.



Review these Lessons and More from our Master Teachers

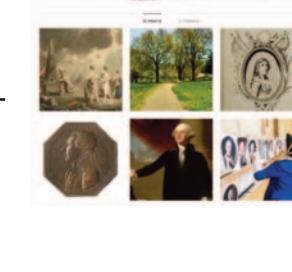
On the Money

Richard Cole Anthony, a member of the Connecticut Society of the Cincinnati, has presented our library with a major collection of seventy-eight manuscripts and printed works relating to financing the American Revolution. A banker in his professional life, Dick Anthony assembled the collection over many years, combining his interest in his family roots with a deep knowledge of financial history. The collection features several documents relating to his ancestor Col. Henry Champion, commissary general of the Eastern Department of the Continental Army (known as the “Beefmaster of the Revolution”), including a 1781 receipt for “One Thousand Dollars coin to purchase Fat Oxen for the army of France.” The Richard Cole Anthony Collection also includes examples of state and Continental currencies, war bonds, pay certificates, documentation of the “New Emission” legislation to recapitalize war debts (including an unpublished letter from a congressman expressing doubts about the new plan), post-war settling of accounts, and a fine broadside relating to the ratification of the United States Constitution. Dick Anthony believes that the achievement of American independence cannot be fully appreciated without a true understanding of the precarious financial situation the young country faced and overcame. His gift will provide scholars with primary sources to dig deeply into this subject, our education program with great materials to convey the problem of paying for the Revolution, and of course, wonderful pieces for a future exhibition on this theme—maybe we’ll call it *The Price of Independence*. Our next step is to digitize the collection and create a finding aid for the website.



Revolution One Bite at a Time

For more than a decade our staff and invited experts have presented midday lectures at Anderson House called “Lunch Bites.” Each talk is inspired by a special piece from our collections and concludes with an opportunity to examine the piece up close. Some of these little lectures have been gems, but they were rarely recorded and so were enjoyed just once. Since we can’t invite our audience to come to us this summer, we’re taking “Lunch Bites” to our audience online. Our first video “Lunch Bite,” presented by Research Services Librarian Rachel Nellis, focuses on a rare book—Herman Mann’s *The Female Review: or Memoirs of an American Young Lady*—a 1797 account of the life of Deborah Sampson, a young Massachusetts woman who enlisted in the Continental Army disguised as a man and served with distinction in the light infantry. Now you can share in the fun with the first in a new series of ten-minute documentaries produced by our staff. Think of it as the American Revolution, one bite at a time.



Watch the Video

DC Class Zooms-In on the American Revolution

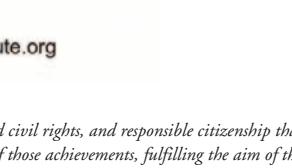
Earlier this year, Kathryn Mancino, a teacher at the District of Columbia’s Two Rivers Charter School, was planning to bring her elementary school class to Anderson House to learn about the American Revolution and its legacy. The public health emergency upset that plan, but on May 20, Director of Education Stacia Smith and History and Education Associate Evan Phifer met with her class online using Zoom, showing students the art and artifacts, prints and other library materials they would have seen on their visit. Their focus was the original American-made Revolutionary War cannon in our Great Stair Hall—a symbol of our war for independence with symbols related to the constructive achievements of the American Revolution—our independence, republic, national identity and highest ideals.



View Materials We Shared During the Presentation

Do you follow the American Revolution Institute on social media?

The Institute uses social media to promote understanding and appreciation of the constructive accomplishments of the American Revolution, to build awareness of our work, and to invite public engagement with the issues that concern our organization. Follow the Institute on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.



Keep the American Revolution Institute Growing...

...promoting the history you care about and values that define us as a nation. We’re weathering the current crisis with the support of Society of the Cincinnati members and Associates of the American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati—partners who have taken a stand with us to promote understanding and appreciation of the great events at the heart of our national experience. June is the last month of the Society of the Cincinnati’s Annual Giving Campaign. We ask every Society member to contribute. Every dollar you give supports the work of the Institute—the good work we’re telling you about in each issue of this newsletter...work that is making the American Revolution Institute an increasingly important voice. To persuade members to give generously, a group of patriotic members has issued a matching challenge: every dollar members of the Society give in excess of their gift to the 2019 campaign will be doubled. Look for a special message on Monday, June 1, with all the details.

Contribute to the Annual Giving Campaign Online

June is also a great month for Associates of the American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati to renew their commitment for the year. If you haven’t done so, please renew with us. Our Founding Associates are the pioneers of a growing movement. Help keep it growing.

Renew as a Founding Associate Online

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The American Revolution secured our independence, created our republic, established our national identity, and expressed ideals of liberty, equality, natural and civil rights, and responsible citizenship that have defined our history and will define our future. The American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati promotes knowledge and appreciation of those achievements, fulfilling the aim of the Continental Army officers who founded the Society of the Cincinnati in 1783 to perpetuate the memory of that vast event. The Institute supports advanced study, presents exhibitions and other public programs, advocates effective classroom instruction, and provides resources to teachers and students to enrich understanding of the American Revolution and the principles of the men and women who secured the liberty of the American people.

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